

TYPES OF HEARINGS FOR OBSERVATION

ARRAIGNMENT

A PROCEEDING IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING A CRIME IS BROUGHT INTO COURT, TOLD OF THE CHARGES, AND ASKED TO PLEAD GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY.

PRELIMINARY HEARING

A PROCEEDING BEFORE A JUDICIAL OFFICER IN WHICH EVIDENCE IS PRESENTED SO THAT THE COURT CAN DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO HOLD THE ACCUSED FOR TRIAL ON A FELONY CHARGE.

TRIAL

THE HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF ISSUES OF FACT AND LAW, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESCRIBED LEGAL PROCEDURES, IN ORDER TO REACH A DISPOSITION. TYPES OF TRIALS ARE A COURT OR BENCH TRIAL, HEARD ONLY BY A JUDGE, AND A JURY TRIAL, HEARD BY 12 QUALIFIED CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE TRIAL IS BEING HELD.

SENTENCING

THE HEARING WHERE A JUDGE ANNOUNCES THE PUNISHMENT ORDERED BY THE COURT FOR A DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF A CRIME. A SETTING BEFORE THE JUDGE AT WHICH TIME A VARIETY OF MOTIONS OR PLEAS OF LEGAL TECHNICALITY OR REQUESTS FOR CERTAIN CHANGES MAY BE REQUESTED. THE JUDGE INTERPRETS THE LAW WITH REGARD TO THE MOTIONS. NORMALLY, EVIDENCE IS NOT TAKEN. THE PRESENCE OF THE PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANT IS NOT REQUIRED.

LAW AND MOTION

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